

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205526

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66604

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RHMUNN

10/19/73 EXT. 23450

APPROVED BY S/NM:HRWELLMAN

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R 191724Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205526

STADIS//////////

FOLLOWING SENT ANKARA FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 17 OCT 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205526

STADIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HANDLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

1. STRONG SHOWING BY RPP IS FUELING SPECULATION HERE THAT THE BAN MAY BE IN JEOPARDY. WE ARE TRYING TO REFLECT CONFIDENCE AND PRIVATELY POINTING OUT THAT UNDUE PUBLIC CONCERN COULD, IN FACT, BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. FOR USE OF AN IF ASKED BASIS, WE HAVE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN TODAY:

IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN
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PAGE 02 STATE 205526

TURKEY, ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES INDICATED A

DESIRE TO RECONSIDER THE BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION IF IT CAME TO POWER. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE 1971 DECISION. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING TO MOVE FORWARD AT A NORMAL PACE. TURKEY'S VIGOROUS ACTION HAS INSPIRED OTHERS TO HELP IN CONTROLLING ILLICIT NARCOTICS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT TURKEY, AS A NATION, WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER REVERSING A POLICY SO CLEARLY SERVING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY SHARED HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS.

3. AS YOU KNOW, US DELEGATION TO NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY MEETING IN ANKARA WEEK OF OCTOBER 21 INCLUDES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS STRONGLY CONCERNED ABOUT NARCOTICS CONTROL. WE ARE BRIEFING SENATE AND HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION AND RECOMMENDING DELEGATION RECEIVE AN UP-TO-DATE BRIEFING FROM YOU ON THE SITUATION UPON THEIR ARRIVAL.
KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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